(e) The Eco-tourism projects as and when received from the State Governments will be considered on their merits, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Removal of encroachments from monuments and tourist spots

742. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to stop funds to those States which failed to remove encroachments from monuments and places of tourist interest;

(b) if so, whether Government have also directed the State Governments to send implementation reports of removing such encroachments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when all the encroachments from monuments and places of tourist are likely to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) Ministry of Tourism & Culture have been requesting the State Governments/UT Administrations to check further encroachments and to set up an effective agency to remove the existing encroachments at monuments. During the State Tourism Ministers Conference held on 5.9.2002 the State Governments were also requested to ensure that encroachements should not come up in the vicinity of heritage sites as it creates adverse image in the mind of visitors. In the New Tourism Policy thrust has been given to the civilisational issues as well as issues pertaining to civic and good governance. In major tourism projects the State Governments are being requested for relocation of the encroachments.

Outstanding dues of NDMC to Hotel Ashok of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)

743. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India Tourism Development Corporation owned Hotel Ashok owes New Delhi Municipal Council Rs. 18.75 crores;

(b) if so, whether NDMC has sent notice to the hotel for payment otherwise water connection in the hotel would be snapped; and

(c) if so, the actual position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir. However NDMC has sent Property Tax Demand Notice for Rs. 18.75 crores for the period ending March, 2002. The basis of the Demand Notice has been challenged by ITDC in the Court of District Judge, Delhi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The matter is *sub-judice.*

Procedure for filling-up the post of President of various Academies

744. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that different procedure is followed for filling in the post of President of Sahitya Academy, Sangeeth Nataka Academy and Lalit Kala Academy;

(b) whether Government feel that a uniform procedure is advantageous; and

(c) if so, what measures Government propose to take to have the same procedure for all these academies?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) the matter is receiving attention of the Government.

Promotion of tourism in Bihar

†745. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state what is Government's plan to promote tourism in Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, Nalanda and Vaishali in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): The Department of Tourism promotes India as a whole including the State of Bihar through production of publicity material and dissemination of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.